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# Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SAA-01 SSM-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /095 W
----------090695 191201Z /44
O 191051Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4267
INFOR AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 9109

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IS
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AT JULY 23 CABINET MEETING OF SADAT'S
PROPOSALS TO WEIZMAN

1. OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE ISRAELI PRESS SPECULATION CONCERNING THE GESTURE, REPORTEDLY REQUESTED BY SADAT DURING HIS MEETING WITH WEIZMAN LAST WEEK, TO TURN OVER EL ARISH TO EGYPTIAN CIVIL ADMINISTRATION AS A DEMONSTRATION OF ISRAELI GOODWILL IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS. ACCORDING TO YEDIOT (ZIMUKI), SUCH A TRANSFER WOULD INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MOSQUE, A CHURCH, AND A SYNAGOGUE
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AT SANTA KATERINA, AS PART OF WHAT IS SADAT'S REPORTED HOPE TO MAKE EL ARISH A "CITY OF PEACE". ACCORDING TO MA'ARIV, SADAT FEELS HE NEEDS SUCH A DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD FAITH BEFORE THE AUTUMN ANNIVERSARY OF HIS VISIT TO JERUSALEM.

2. ZIMUKI REPORTED JULY 18 THAT THE PRELIMINARY FEELING

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AMONG CABINET MINISTERS WAS THAT SUCH A GESTURE COULD
NOT BE UNDERTAKEN AS LONG AS SADAT AND HIS AIDES CONTINUE
THEIR ATTACKS ON BEGIN AND DAYAN. ZIMUKI ALSO
SPECULATED THAT THE FATE OF THIS PROPOESD GESTURE
WOULD DEPEND TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT ON THE
RESULTS OF THE CURRENT LONDON TALKS. MEANWHILE, MA'ARIV
(HARIF) JULY 18 ASSERTED THAT THE EXPECTATION THAT THE
LONDON CONFERENCE WOULD NOT YIELD GREAT PROGRESS HAS LED
TO "AN INTENTION TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERIM
SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT". PRESUMABLY, SAID HARIF,
SUCH A SETTLEMENT WOULD REPLACE THE SEPTEMBER 1975 ACCORD,
SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE IN OCTOBER 1978 UNLESS IT IS RENEWED
BY BOTH PARTIES. THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY, HOWEVER,
HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS OPPOSITION TO PURSUING SUCH
AN AGREEMENT.

3. ON JULY 19 MA'ARIV REPORTED THAT BEGIN HAD NOT YET
MADE UP HIS MIND ON SADAT'S PROPOSAL, AND THAT DAYAN
"HAS NOT REJECTED" THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SUCH A
GESTURE. HOWEVER, WHEN THE IDEA OF SUCH A TRANSFER WAS
FIRST RAISED BEFORE THE SADAT VISIT TO JERUSALEM, BEGIN
AND SHARON WERE THE ONLY MINISTERS TO SUPPORT IT. THE
QUESTION IS EXPECTED TO BE RAISED AT NEXT SUNDAY'S
(JULY 23) CABINET SESSION.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BEGIN HAS ACCEPTED FOR JULY 23
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A LONG-STANDING INVITATION FROM CBS TO APPEAR LIVE ON
"FACE THE NATION". HIS APPEARANCE WILL FOLLOW THE
CABINET SESSION BY ONLY A FEW HOURS.
VIETS

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** CABINET, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, PEACE PLANS
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 19 jul 1978
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** n/a
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:**
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
**Disposition Reason:**
**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Document Source:** CORE
**Document Unique ID:** 00
**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
**Expiration:**
**Film Number:** D780296-0249
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Litigation Code IDs:**
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
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**Page Count:** 2
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**Review Event:**
**Review Exemptions:** n/a
**Review Media Identifier:**
**Review Release Date:** n/a
**Review Release Event:** n/a
**Review Transfer Date:**
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a
**SAS ID:** 1950622
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** DISCUSSION AT JULY 23 CABINET MEETING OF SADAT\'S PROPOSALS TO WEIZMAN
**TAGS:** PEPR, IS, (SADAT, ANWAR), (WEIZMAN, EZER)
**To:** STATE AMMAN
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**Review Markings:**
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014